WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. OF L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS,

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

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HEADQUARTERS
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INJUNCTION LIMITATION BILL PASSES

House of Representatives Passes Labor's Anti-Injunction Bill by an Overwhelming Majority.

Washington, May 18.--The house of representatives on Tuesday, May 14, passed the Clayton injunction limitation bill by a vote of 243 yeas to 31 nays. The Clayton measure is practically a committee bill. The original anti-injunction bill was introduced by W. B. Wilson, coal miner, and chairman of the House Labor Committee. The bill came up for discussion pursuant to a rule introduced by the rules committee, and upon the passage of the rule took the measure from the calendar for general debate and action. The rule under which the discussion proceeded provided that only one amendment should be offered by the judiciary committee opposition to the bill, which was presented by Congressman Sterling of Illinois. The prominent features of the bill as passed provide that no injunction shall be issued without previous notice, giving an opportunity to be heard on behalf of the parties to be enjoined, but if it shall appear to the satisfaction of the court or judge that irreparable injury is likely to ensue, authority is given to issue a temporary restraining order, but such order must define the injury and state why it is irreparable, and why the order was granted without notice, and the effect of the order shall only run for seven days unless extended or renewed for a like period. It is also provided that in the issuing of injunctions security must be given by the applicant conditioned upon the payment of such costs and damages as may be incurred or suffered by any party who may be found to have been wrongfully enjoined or restrained thereby. Also that every injunction issued shall set forth the reasons for the issuance of the same in specific terms. The concluding paragraph of the bill provides that no restraining order shall prohibit any person or persons from recommending, advising or persuading others by peaceful means to terminate their employment or from attending at or near a house or place where any person resides or works, or carries on business, or happens to be, for the purpose of peacefully obtaining or communicating information, or peacefully persuading any person to work or to abstain from work, or from ceasing to patronize, or to employ any party to a trade dispute, or from recommending, advising or persuading others by peaceful means so to do, and concludes that any individual shall not be enjoined from doing any act or thing which might lawfully be done in the absence of any dispute between an employer and employes. The bill now goes to the senate for action.

STATE FEDERATION SCORES POINT

Indianapolis, Ind. May 18.--The State Federation of Indiana has gone to the courts in an attempt to break the prison labor contract in effect at the Indiana reformatory at Jeffersonville. A motion to dismiss the suit was filed by the defendants, who compose the board of trustees of the reformatory, as individuals, and the Indiana Manufacturing Company, which furnishes employment for the prisoners and sells their products. The defendants contended that the suit against them individually is indirectly against the state, because they are state officials and state agents; that it was brought in a county in which none of them reside, and that they were acting within their authority when contracts were made. As to the first contention the judge held that the agents of the state can do only what they are allowed to do by law and when they exceed their authority, actions may be filed against them as individuals, although the state cannot be sued without its consent. To determine whether the defendants have exceeded their authority they may be sued as individuals, the court held, and to test the question the defendants should file a demurrer. The question of the jurisdiction over the defendants can be raised by a plea in abatement.

AMALGAMATED MEAT CUTTERS

Syracuse, N. Y., May 18.--The Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen are now making better progress than for many years, a number of new charters having been issued this year, and a large increase in membership of locals previously organized is reported. The local union at Stockton, Cal., has secured an agreement reducing working hours and an increase of $2.50 per week, with full recognition of organization. The local union of Walla Walla, Wash., has secured a new agreement carrying an increased wage. By referendum vote the international organization decided not to have a convention at the present time.

BREWERY WORKERS GET MORE PAY

Philadelphia, May 18.--All of the organizations employed in and around breweries in this city have secured a new agreement, the main feature being an increase of $1.00 per week for all crafts connected with the brewing industry. In addition to the increase in pay the engineers are to receive one week's vacation with pay between the first of April and November, while the brewers get eight hours per day for eight months in the year and nine hours for four months of the year.

BRICKLAYERS GET AN AGREEMENT

Akron, O., May 18.--The local bricklayers have secured an agreement with all construction contractors for a period of two years. The agreement carries a small increase in wages and the Saturday half holiday during certain portions of the year.

PLUMBERS WIN OUT

Worcester, Mass., May 18.--After ten day's strike the members of the local Plumbers' union have secured an agreement which includes the 44-hour week and an increase in pay from $24 to $24.75 per week.

PAPERMAKERS MAKING PROGRESS

Washington, May 18.--Reported in last week's letter was the fact that two large paper mills in Holyoke, Mass., had granted an eight-hour day. And now comes the information that the American Writing Paper company, a trust concern, in the same city, has also announced an increase in wages, and that the eight-hour day will be adopted, one mill at a time, as early as possible. The West End Paper company at Carthage, N. Y. and the De Grasse Paper company at Pyrites, N. Y., will adopt the eight-hour day on June 1. An increase in wages has been granted by the St. Croix Paper company, the St. Regis Paper company, the Berlin Mills company and the Taggarts Paper company. The advance in wages and the shortening of hours in the paper industry is the result of a concentrated effort upon the part of the organization involved to thoroughly organize the paper making trade.

CIVIL SERVICE TERMS FIVE YEARS

Washington, May 18.--If a house measure is accepted by the senate, appointments to the classified service will be for terms of five years. All the government employes now in the service will be dismissed June 30, 1917, with the understanding that all of those who are efficient will be reappointed by their department chief immediately and without examination. This feature of the legislative, judicial and executive appropriation bill went through as it was proposed originally by the committee on appropriations, no contest being made against it.

MOVEMENTS IN VARIOUS TRADES

Providence, R. I., May 18.--The U. A. Steamfitters are on strike for a $4 minimum wage and the eight-hour day, with prospects good for success. The carpenters' union has made a demand for a 50¢ per day increase and prospects are good for securing same without opposition. The machinists' union is conducting a campaign of organization and is securing steady increases in membership. The patternmakers of Worcester, Mass., have secured an increase ranging from 30¢ to 60¢ per day.

BLACKSMITHS ADVANCING

Chicago, May 18.--The International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths and Helpers has just organized three new local unions, one at Jefferson City, Mo., one at Hagerstown, Md., and another at Staunton, Ill. This organization has recently begun the organizing of ladies' auxiliaries, and is meeting with splendid success. The International has just contributed about $3,000 to the members of the organization on strike on the Harriman lines and Illinois Central.

SIGNS PENSION BILL

Washington, May 18.--A pension bill introduced in the house by Congressman Sherwood a member of Toledo, O. Typographical union, has been adopted by congress and signed by the president. The bill, as finally agreed to, carries an increase of $35,000,000 for pensions during the first year of its operation. Trade unionists do things in congress as well as elsewhere.

FAVORABLE TO INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Washington, May 18.--The Hughes-Borah bill to create a commission on industrial relations has been favorably reported to the house by the house committee on labor. This measure was recently advocated in a special message by President Taft. The bill provides that a commission of nine members named by the President shall make a study of the relations between employes and employers; the cause of industrial unrest; the general condition of labor, and shall endeavor to discover the underlying cause of industrial dissatisfaction in this country and abroad. The commission will be required to report its findings to congress, together with such recommendations as may be deemed pertinent to the questions under consideration.

ST. PAUL, MINN., DOINGS

St. Paul, Minn., May 18.--The labor forward movement of this city is a success and is proving equal to that held just previously in Minneapolis. While negotiations were in progress for a new scale of the printing pressmen, the Pioneer Press and Dispatch locked out the employes of the press rooms and issued an ultimatum that they could only return as individuals. Negotiations looking to a conference have been denied by the publishers. Carl Legien's visit to this city drew a large audience and the meeting was an unqualified success.

CARPENTER INCREASES

Indianapolis, May 18.--Secretary Frank Duffy of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters reports that the local union at Great Falls, Mont., has secured an increase in wages of 50¢ per day, making the minimum scale $5. Also that the local union at New Brunswick, N. J., after a strike lasting two weeks has secured a compromise agreement which carries with it an increase of 50¢ a day after November 1, next. The carpenters of Lowell Mass., have also secured an increase from $3.20 to $3.60 per day and secured the 44-hour week, the agreement to run for three years.

FRESNO LABOR NOTES

Fresno, Cal., May 18.--The teamsters in this city have reorganized and are making splendid progress. The unskilled laborers have also reorganized under a charter from the A. F. of L. and are known as the United Laborers of Fresno. The journeymen bakers of this city have been successful in having their new agreement, calling for an increased wage scale, signed by the master bakers. The journeymen secured an increase of $1 per week.

QUARRY WORKERS

Barre, Vt., May 18.--The Milford, Mass., branch of the Quarry Workers International Union has secured a five years' agreement, after being on strike since April 1, an increase in wages and other concessions being granted. A new local branch has just been formed at Bowling Green, Ky. A strike is on in two or three of the local unions of this organization but with good prospects of final success.

London, May 18.--Established as long ago as 1857, the Associated Blacksmiths' and Ironworkers' Society holds a good record, and in the fifty-fourth financial report just issued, there is further evidence that the society is in a prosperous condition. The income from all sources shows an increase over the previous year of £412, whilst the net income added to the balance of £18,762 brought over from the previous year gives a total of £27,912. Membership at present is 3,253, an increase of 300 during the past year. The Executive Committee is unanimously of the opinion that the time is now ripe and opportune for a forward movement in regard to amalgamation, believing that to effectively protect blacksmiths' interest there must be one society for the trade. The report adds: "We trust that before the year 1912 has ebbed, another link in the chain of combination will have been forged, and that the society will march forward to its destiny with new ideas and high hopes for the future."

ELECTRICAL WORKERS

London, May 18.--An effort is being made to organize London's large army of electrical workers of all grades. This is being done by the Electrical Trade Union, which has during the past two years made tremendous progress numerically, financially, and intellectually. As a result of the increased membership wages have risen considerably in many parts of the United Kingdom, but London, although it has trebled its strength, needs the whole solid mass of electricians to wipe away many of the wrongs which they humbly have to suffer. London electricians, by combination and solidarity, could gain many advantages, and the effort to rally them should be crowned with success. Employers are becoming so powerful that the only way in which to cope with them is to be well organized, and in all probability the electricians will play no small part in the Trade Union movement in the near future.

TRAMWAYMEN STRIKE

London, May 18.--Having certain grievances, relating to payment for holiday time and to working short time during the miners' strike, the tramwaymen employed by the Cardiff Corporation are out on strike and the Municipal tramway service is at a standstill. The men had asked for an interview with the Tramways committee, but held a midnight meeting, and ninety-nine percent voted in favor of stopping work at once. The men are of opinion that no question of breach of agreement is involved in a sudden strike, as they are by the terms of their employment liable to instant dismissal. They complain that at Easter they were stopped the usual allowance of a full day's pay additional to the usual rates for actual hours worked on the two holidays, and were paid only the double time, which was on the short time basis of the coal strike.

BOILERMAKERS LAID OFF

London, May 18.--About 300 boilermakers, fitters and laborers have terminated work at Chaphan dockyard, owing to there being insufficient work in the engineering department to keep the present complement of men employed.

Washington, May 18.--The Atlanta convention of the American Federation of Labor directed the executive council to thoroughly investigate the boy scout movement, relative to its influence, economic and otherwise. Agreeable to that recommendation James E. West, chief scout executive, and Edgar S. Martin, scout commissioner and superintendent of play-grounds of Washington, D. C., appeared before the executive council of the American Federation of Labor and explained in detail the movement. The representatives of the scout movement explained that the organization was designed for the character building of boys, the teaching to them of self-help and helpfulness to others, and that the movement was not military in character and that it was in no manner hostile to the aims and purposes of organized labor. It was explained that there were two boy scout movements in this country, the one named the American Boy Scout Movement being of a military character, but not recognized by the regular movement, which is non-military in character. The executive council will make a full report on this matter to the coming convention.

COUNCIL AGAINST BILL

Washington, May 18.--Senator Warren of Wyoming is championing a bill for an appropriation of $100,000 yearly for rifle practice in public schools and colleges, or under the direction of the war department. The executive council has passed a resolution disapproving of the Warren bill, as follows: "We protest against the enactment of the Warren bill, or any other movement toward militarizing our school system; that such a purpose or tendency contains serious and dangerous possibilities to divert the activities and ideals of American boyhood to the destructive and brutal art of war, rather than to the activities and ideals of the arts of peace; that the proposition contained in the Warren bill is un-American and not calculated to develop the best conception of patriotism or the maintenance of the national spirit of liberty."

POPULAR VOTE BILL CARRIES

Washington, May 18.--By a vote of 237 to 39 the house of representatives receded from its former position and accepted the Bristow amendment to the joint resolution proposing to amend the constitution providing that the United States senators shall be elected by the people of the several states. The amendment, as agreed to, will now be submitted to the several state legislatures for their ratification. If three-fourths of the states ratify this amendment it will become an accomplished fact.

PICTURE SHOWS SIGN UP

Boston, May 18.--Seventy-eight of the 86 motion picture houses in greater Boston district have signed the new wage scale of the Moving Picture Operators' Union. Under the new schedule a minimum of $20 for a six-day week has been secured.

PEORIA BAKERS GET ADVANCE

Peoria, Ill., May 18.--The Bakers' union has secured an agreement with all of the shops that were signed up last year. The new agreement provides for better conditions and shorter hours, the nine hour day having been conceded.

A. F. OF L. ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Springfield, Ill., May 18.--The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has recently chartered the following locals, which were formerly with the Reid seceding faction; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Cleveland, O.; Youngstown, O.; Dallas, Texas; two locals in Fort Worth, Texas; Sherman, Tex.; Houston, Tex.; Pittsfield, Mass.; Fresno, Cal.; Jacksonville, Fla., Carlinville, Ill.; Milwaukee, Wis., Jefferson City, Mo., Boston, Mass.; Paducah, Ky.; Manchester, N. H.; Moberly, Mo.; Atlanta, Ga., and Memphis, Tenn. This addition is the result of the decision rendered by the court sometime ago in Cleveland, O., which decided that the McNulty organization was the bona fide organization of Electrical Workers.

LABOR MAN SENTENCED

Manchester, Eng., May 18.--Tom Mann, president of the Syndicalist Education League, has been found guilty, according to the court, of "having endeavored to influence British soldiers from their duty," and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. Before being sentenced Mann addressed the court, arguing that when acting under the civil law the soldiers were only citizens. He denied that he had endeavored to influence soldiers, as soldiers, from the performance of their duty.

AFTER THE "SWEATERS"

London, May 18.--An official of the Board of Trade has been sent to Nottingham to inquire into the sweating in the lace trade, which has been carried on by the middle-women, who have been in the habit of deducting 1d or 2d in the shilling earned by the workers, ostensibly to pay for the coal and gas used by the middle-women while giving out work.

EMPLOYERS BREAK AGREEMENT

Portland, Ore., May 18.--Under an agreement between the Electrical Workers and the employers, a $5.00 wage scale was to go into effect on May 1, 1913. Upon that date, however, a number of the larger employers locked out their employes, refusing to abide by the agreement reached last year.

SECURE EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Portland, Ore., May 18.--It is stated by officials of the local Bakery Workers' union that arrangements have been made with most of the master bakers to inaugurate the eight-hour day. The new scale just effective calls for no change in wages other than for an increase in overtime of 5¢ per hour.

TEAMSTERS ORGANIZE

Hamilton, Ont., May 18.--The International Brotherhood of Teamsters has organized a local union of chauffeurs, stablemen and helpers, with a large charter list. The men joining the organization have been accustomed to working from 10 to 16 hours a day heretofore.

TO REGULATE MARINE BAND

Washington, May 18.--A bill has been reported to the house by the committee on labor, which, if adopted, will prevent members of the famous government marine band from playing in competition with civilian musicians. The expenses of the government band are fully paid for by the government, but this organization has accepted in the past private engagements in competition with civilian musicians.

AIMED AT AMATEURS

Washington, May 18.--The senate has passed a bill containing stringent regulations for wireless telegraphy. It is designed to prevent interference of one message with another; to give a S. O. S. signal of vessels in distress priority over other messages, and generally to prevent amateurs from interfering with commercial and distress signals.

SUBWAY EMPLOYES GET RAISE

New York, May 18.--Officials of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company have announced that the wages of a portion of the subway and elevated employes will be increased by a raise of 10¢ a day for those in all grades in the service for two years. It is stated that the increase will aggregate $230,000 the first year.

LAWRENCE STRIKE REPORT

Washington, May 18.--The secretary of commerce and labor has informed the senate that the inquiry into the question of wages and living conditions among the textile mill operatives at Lawrence, Mass., is being reduced to a report, and will be submitted in all probability within the next week.

LONDON TAILORS WIN

London, May 18.--A general demand for an increase in wages and betterment of conditions was made by over 25,000 tailors and tailoresses in this city. As a result a large number of the firms involved conceded the demands and the strike has practically drawn to a close.

CLAIMS LAW VIOLATED

Washington, May 18.--A complaint has been made to the president that the eight-hour law is being violated in the soldiers' home in Dayton, O., where some of the engineers have been required to work 12 hours per day. The president has ordered an investigation.

SHOEMAKERS ASK INCREASE

Lynn, Mass., May 18.--A strike of between 18,000 and 20,000 shoemakers in the near future is not improbable. A demand has been made for a new price list, granting an increase of ¾¢ per pair, which the manufacturers claim would destroy their profits.

There are now FIFTEEN trade union members of Congress. With a little effort this number can be increased to THIRTY. Let's do it.

BREWERS STRIKE SETTLED

Kansas City, Mo., May 18.--The strike of the employes of all the breweries in this city has been settled. An agreement was reached for a period of three years, which gives the employes an increase in wages of 5%. Another important point gained was that the employes will be paid off weekly instead of monthly and semi-monthly, and the engineers and firemen will work six days instead of seven as heretofore.

STREET CARMEN TO ARBITRATE

Washington, May 18.--According to the Iron City Trades Journal of Pittsburgh the possibility of a strike on the Pittsburgh Railways has been practically eliminated. Out of the 20 matters in dispute all but three or four have been agreed to in joint conference between the men and the company, and are to go into effect at once. The other matters in dispute are to go to arbitration.

COMPENSATION BILL PASSES

Washington, May 18.--On May 6 the senate passed the employers' liability and workmen's compensation bill. The vote by which the bill was passed was 64 to 15. Various amendments were proposed, but were all voted down except a few unimportant ones that were accepted by Senator Sutherland of Utah, who had charge of the bill on the floor. The bill now goes to the house of representatives for action.

WEAVERS ON STRIKE

Holyoke, Mass., May 18.--Sixty weavers, practically all of whom are old operatives, having been employed in the mills from twenty to twenty-five years, have struck against the Brown mills of the American Woolen company. The strikers are demanding the same price list that is paid in the Masoma mills in Lebanon, N. H., another American company mill.

GOT LABEL BOXES

Washington, May 18.--President Perkins of the Cigarmakers' International union communicated with concerns all over the country in an effort to get union label boxes in which to keep official records. Being unable to obtain them he purchased 200 tin boxes, each with the sheet metal workers' label on them.

BACK UP ON HIGHER PAY

Washington, May 18.--As reported in last week's letter, the legislative, judicial and executive appropriation bill was amended to increase the salaries of private secretaries of house members from $1,500 to $2,000 per year. This amendment has been reconsidered and the salary put back to $1,500.

GET SATURDAY HALF HOLIDAY

Washington, May 18.--It is reported from Worcester, Mass., that the Bricklayers' union has been successful in securing the half holiday the year round without friction.

IRON MOLDERS GET INCREASE

Hamilton, Ont., May 18.--The molders and coremakers of this city with the exception of those employed by one firm, have been successful in having their minimum wage scale raised 25¢ and 50¢ a day respectively. The molders are on strike against the one firm which refuses to concede the advance in wages.

GRANITE CUTTERS STRIKING

Worcester, Mass., May 18.--Upon the refusal of the local granite concerns to grant the members of the Granite Cutters' union an advance in wages, a strike in which 140 granite cutters, employed in 14 yards in this city, has taken place. The union asks that a minimum wage of 42¢ an hour be granted.

BRICKLAYERS WIN STRIKE

Hamilton, Ont., May 18.--After being out less than a week several hundred bricklayers and masons have settled their trouble with the contractors and are back at work, having secured a three year agreement with a wage scale of 55¢ an hour, an increase of 5¢ per hour.

DAVENPORT STRIKE SETTLED

Davenport, Ia., May 18--The local Button Workers' union has just announced that the controversy between the Tri-City Button Plant and the employes, who have been on strike for a number of days, has been settled satisfactory to all concerned.

MILL WORKERS GET INCREASE

Washington, May 18.--It is reported from Holyoke, Mass., that the 1500 strikers of mills Nos. 1 and 2 of the American Thread Company have returned to work, their demands for a flat increase in wages of 10% having been granted.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS GROWING

Boston, May 18.--Organized less than two months ago the girl telephone operators employed at the local exchanges have enrolled on their membership books a membership of over 1,000 operators.

FIREMEN WANT HIGHER PAY

Montreal, May 18.--The firemen on the Grand Trunk railway have made a demand for a 20% increase of pay. The engineers on this road recently were given 10% increase.

PAINTERS WIN STRIKE

St. Catharines, Ont., May 18.--The painters in this city, after a months strike, have won their demands for an increase in wages from 30¢ to 35¢ per hour.